

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 /090 W

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R 071033Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2943

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE/ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 5624; (B) LISBON 5844; (C) LISBON 5973 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON BRIEFLY DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 30 THE VISIT OF MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI TO LISBON AND HIS CALLS THERE ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER. ALLON SAID THE CALLS WERE MILDLY DISAPPOINTING IN THAT "I CAN'T SEE WE GOT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. PORTUGAL IS STILL USING A FORMULATION WHICH SPEAKS OF "NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS" RATHER THAN THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES.

2. A LABOR PARTY SOURCE (GAT-INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY), WHO IS CLOSE TO THIS SUBJECT, COMMENTED THAT ISRAEL HAS HAD EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS. IT HAD BEEN WRONG, HE SAID, TO THINK THAT AVINERI WOULD VISIT LISBON AND A WEEK LATER AMBASSADORS WOULD BE  
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EXCHANGED. THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MUST BE A

CAREFUL PROCESS. THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS INVITED THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY TO SEND A DELEGATION TO VISIT PORTUGAL AND THE LABOR PARTY WILL DO SO IN OCTOBER.

3. PRIME MINISTER SOARES' INTERVIEW WITH AN IRANIAN PUBLICATION REGARDING POSSIBLE USE OF THE AZORES BY THE U.S. IN AID OF ISRAEL WAS SUMMARIZED BY ISRAELI MEDIA. MOST OF THESE ARTICLES REPORTED THAT PORTUGAL WOULD NOT MAKE REFUELING FACILITIES AVAILABLE. GAT COMMENTED THAT SOME RETHINKING OF THIS SUBJECT BY PORTUGAL IS OBVIOUSLY UNDERWAY BUT THIS APPEARS NOT TO BE UNFAVORABLE TO ISRAEL.

4. PRESS REACTION TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAS BEEN MIXED. THERE WAS FAVORABLE COMMENT LAST WEEK REGARDING THE AVINERI VISIT, BUT THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY SOME NEGATIVE COMMENT AFTER THE SOARES INTERVIEW. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INDEPENDENT HA'ARETZ EDITORIALIZED AUGUST 31 THAT "IF HIS STATEMENT ABOUT THE AZORES IS WHAT HE MEANS BY NORMALIZATION, ONE PREFERS THE ABNORMALITY OF THE PAST". ALL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF THE NEW ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL IN LISBON (REF C) AT THIS POINT IS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE YET REGARDING A SUCCESSOR.  
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## Message Attributes

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